



DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION
GOVERNOR'S REQUEST COVER LETTER
MAJOR DISASTER**

September 02, 2021

The Honorable Joseph Biden
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Through: Regional Administrator - Robert Fenton
FEMA Region IX
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Arizona, as a result of severe storms and flooding within the State, during the period of July 22-24, 2021.

Starting on July 22, 2021, a series of monsoonal storms produced heavy rainfall across the northern portion of the State, these monsoonal storms were preceded by continual storms that had already saturated the ground within the area. The severe rainfall affected Apache County, Coconino County, and Navajo County. Rainfall continued through the next two days with most flooding subsiding by July 24, 2021. According to the National Weather Service, Coconino County received up to 4 inches of rain on a single day, much of which was over the burn scar area of a recent wildfire. Apache and Navajo Counties received up to 2.5 inches of rain on the already saturated ground.

This portion of the State was not only impacted by rainfall directly within those counties, but they were also impacted by flooding from the rivers, washes, and mountains outside the county.

The American Red Cross has conducted basic case management services for residents, and as needed, provided temporary sheltering options for displaced individuals. Additional Statewide Arizona Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster partners have provided mud and muck out services, clean up kits, and disaster recovery expertise.

In response to this incident, I issued a State Declaration of Emergency on August 06, 2021, for Apache County, Coconino County, and Navajo County. Additionally, these counties, as well as several local municipalities, all activated their emergency operations centers.

The Arizona Department of Transportation is in the process of submitting a notice of intent under the provisions of Title 23, U.S.C., Section 125, to request emergency relief funds to assist in the cost of repairing damages on Federal-Aid Highways in multiple counties.

Upon determining the size and scope of this incident, I directed the Arizona Division of Emergency Management to arrange a joint Federal-State Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA). The assessment was requested from FEMA Region IX on August 11, 2021, and the assessments took place from August 16-20, 2021. The field teams visited and assessed sites in Apache, Coconino, and Navajo Counties. Representatives from the State and FEMA were satisfied with the assessment.

The Governor's Emergency Fund, which provides financial assistance to impacted jurisdictions for Public Assistance projects, supports all State and Federally declared disasters. Annually, this fund is allocated \$4,000,000.00. The Governor's Emergency Fund not only funds disasters occurring within that fiscal year, but also funds all disasters from previous years in which recovery work and projects are still ongoing and the disasters are still considered open. Currently, the State has six (6) open Federally declared disasters (1586, 1660, 1888, 1940, 4203, 4524) and nineteen (19) open State-level disasters, of which six (6) were declared within the first seven weeks of this fiscal year (FY22). The results of the Joint PDA show impacts from this storm exceeding \$13,000,000 in damages. As of the writing of this letter, the State is in the process of conducting yet another PDA for a seventh flooding event.

In addition to the extremely unusually high number of recent State disaster declarations, the State continues to work through the COVID-19 disaster (DR4524), which is the largest disaster with the longest running Incident Period ever experienced in Arizona.

The 2021 monsoon season has been unique for Arizona. Weather forecasts, through September, continue to predict significant rainfall in the affected counties as well as throughout the remainder of the State. Due to a high number of recent urban interface wildfires, even moderate rains falling upon their burn scars may result in significant flooding requiring additional State disaster declarations.

These repetitive events have created a tremendous burden for local jurisdictions. While not a part of this specific event, the State is in the process of requesting that the U.S. Small Business Administration issue two physical disaster declarations for counties to aid impacted homeowners, renters, and businesses. These pending requests are related to several State-level disaster declarations.

Below is a brief analysis of infrastructure damage by category, including the cost estimates for each category and the percentage of the total eligible Public Assistance cost estimate. A detailed description of the damages within each category is provided as part of Enclosure B.

**Estimated Requirements for Public Assistance in accordance with Stafford Act
CATEGORY**

Municipality	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Apache County	\$0	\$450,000	\$10,675,000	\$120,000	\$0	\$105,000	\$0	\$11,350,000
Coconino County	\$27,000	\$0	\$602,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$930,000	\$1,559,000
Navajo County	\$0	\$0	\$240,500	\$150,000	\$6,000	\$0	\$32,000	\$428,500
Totals:	\$27,000	\$450,000	\$11,517,500	\$270,000	\$6,000	\$105,000	\$962,000	\$13,337,500

CATEGORY OF ASSISTANCE	COST SHARE AMOUNT	
	STATE	LOCAL
Public Assistance:		
Category A - Debris Removal	\$4,050.00	\$2,700.00
Category B – Emergency Protective Measures	\$67,500.00	\$45,000.00
Category C – Roads and Bridges	\$1,727,625.00	\$1,151,750.00
Category D – Water Control Facilities	\$40,500.00	\$27,000.00
Category E – Buildings and Equipment	\$900.00	\$600.00
Category F – Utilities	\$15,750.00	\$10,500.00
Category G – Other (Parks, Recreational Facilities, etc.)	\$144,300.00	\$96,200.00
Total:	\$2,000,625.00	\$1,333,750.00

I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response and recovery is beyond the capabilities of the State and local governments and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary. The state per capita impact threshold for Presidentially declared events is \$1.55 or \$9,907,626.35 for a State population of 6,392,017 (2010 census data). The total cost of eligible Public Assistance damages for this event is \$13,337,500.00. The county per capita impact for FY21 is \$3.89, making the county per capita impact for Apache County \$278,205.02; Coconino County \$522,897.69; Navajo County \$417,976.61. Of the counties assessed, Apache, Coconino, and Navajo Counties have exceeded their per capita impact.

I am specifically requesting Public Assistance for Apache, Coconino, and Navajo Counties. The State is also requesting to manage the Public Assistance Program for our sub-grantees as we have successfully accomplished in our last eleven Presidential Major Declarations (1347, 1422, 1477, 1581, 1586, 1660, 1888, and 1940, 1950, 4203, and 4524) and three Presidential Emergency Declarations (3241, 3307, and 3442).

The State of Arizona is also requesting the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) be made available Statewide, with a priority given to applications submitted from within the areas of impact for this event in Apache, Coconino, and Navajo Counties. The provision of the HMGP program would enable Apache, Coconino, and Navajo Counties to address many of the areas that are prone


to repetitive losses. It is important to note that the State of Arizona has a State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and that that all HMGP applications must have a FEMA approved multi-hazard mitigation plan to be considered eligible.

In addition, the respective responding agencies have already completed or are currently conducting debris removal operations. Direct Federal assistance for debris removal operations is not anticipated at this time. Reimbursement for Category A work will be considered for this event under the Public Assistance Program.

I certify that for this current disaster, State and local government expenditures and obligations will include the non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

I have designated Allen Clark, Director of the Arizona Division of Emergency Management, as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He can be reached at 602-464-6203. Director Clark will work with FEMA during the damage assessment process and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas A. Ducey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Douglas" being the most prominent.

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona

Enclosures:

OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13

Enclosure B: Public Assistance

Enclosure C: Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs

cc: Major General Kerry L. Muehlenbeck, The Adjutant General and Director,
Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs

Allen Clark, Director
Arizona Division of Emergency Management